

BOOK REVIEWS

POISONS—Their Isolation and Identification. By Frank Bamford, B.Sc., Late Director of the Medico-Legal Laboratory, Cairo. Third Edition, revised by C. P. Stewart, D.Sc., Ph.D., Reader in Clinical Chemistry, University of Edinburgh. 23 illustrations. The Blakiston Company, Philadelphia, 1951. 316 pages. \$5.50.

As is indicated in the above title, this book has been revised by Dr. C. P. Stewart, who is toxicologist at the University of Edinburgh. Frank Bamford had had a very extensive experience as director of the medico-legal laboratory of the Government of Egypt, in Cairo, and his first edition of this book commanded immediate attention of toxicologists because of the clarity and completeness of the qualitative chemical procedures which he described for the isolation and identification of poisons. In this third edition, Dr. Stewart has kept the spirit of Bamford's previous two editions, and has added important recent information. Shortcuts are described, many pieces of laboratory equipment are described and illustrated with clear cuts, and the interpretation of symptoms for purposes of gaining clues which will guide the chemist in his search for the poison is especially helpful to the beginner. The book is intended only as a manual for the chemical laboratory and does not pretend to yield information concerning the clinical phases of toxicology, such as early diagnosis and treatment of cases of poisoning. Although it is a very satisfactory guide to the qualitative identification of poisons, there are few aids to the quantitative estimation of the amount of the poison present, except for alcohol, arsenic, lead, bismuth, borate, fluorine and zinc, and for an inadequate quantitative test for barbiturates. Another defect in the book is the amount of space devoted to general statements, especially concerning the toxic agents contained in many plants which are rarely the cause of poisoning, yet without specific tests which would be of aid in the identification of these poisons.

* * *

AN ATLAS OF ANATOMY—Third Edition. By J. C. Boileau Grant, M.C., M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S. (Edin.), Professor of Anatomy in the University of Toronto. By Regions—Upper limb, abdomen, perineum, pelvis, lower limb, vertebrae, vertebral column, thorax, head and neck, cranial nerves and dermatomes. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1951. 657 pages (637 pages of figures and 20 pages of index). \$12.00.

The passage of Grant's *An Atlas of Anatomy* into its third edition during the short space of some eight years is testimony to its general popularity and usefulness. The wide and ready acceptance of the work by student and practitioner alike is doubtless due to the emphasis given to the salient and important, rather than to an exhaustive treatment. Here the student finds not only illustrations of significant features of anatomy but their interpretation as provided by an experienced teacher.

The new edition is larger by some 70 new illustrations with improvement or replacement of many of the old figures. Of the new additions, the most noteworthy are the figures systematically revealing the arrangement of structures in the female pelvis and perineum, the new advances in the designation of the pulmobronchial segments, and the recent modifications of the dermatome patterns as derived from the clinical and experimental work of Keegan. These many additions have mended earlier deficiencies and immeasurably added to the value of the atlas to place it among the best available. Of deficiencies which still remain, there are two: First, there is little on the variations in division of the recurrent laryngeal nerve which is so important to surgery of the thyroid gland; second, the absence of roentgeno-

grams which, for instance, are far superior in revealing the epiphyses of bones in the manner in which the student usually observes them.

A word should also be said on the great improvement in the reproduction of the illustrations. In earlier editions these were somewhat flat, lacking in contrast and brilliance. The sharpening up of the figures has done much for their clarity and they have gained in the third dimension.

In short, Grant's *Atlas* has gone from strength to strength showing advance with every edition to place it in the forefront of works of this nature. Student and practicing physician could make no better selection for their studies.

* * *

THE MANAGEMENT OF FRACTURES, DISLOCATIONS, AND SPRAINS—Fifth Edition. By John Albert Key, B.S., M.D., Clinical Professor of Orthopedic Surgery, Washington University School of Medicine; and H. Earle Conwell, M.D., F.A.C.S., Associate Professor of Orthopedic Surgery, University of Alabama School of Medicine. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, 1951. 1232 pages. \$16.00.

This is one of the old standard American texts dealing with fractures, dislocations and sprains. It has been the standard work since 1934. The general formation of the text remains the same. It is profusely and well illustrated. The text is excellent in a general sense and the principles advocated are the result of extensive experience of the authors.

The composite ideas and experience of the two authors, it is an excellent text for anyone having to do with treatment of injuries of this type. Quite properly, the book tends toward conservatism. By following the directions and advice of this text in the care of injuries of the musculoskeletal system, certainly many unnecessary complications can be avoided.

The section on compound injuries is excellent. There is little emphasis on prophylactic antibiotic therapy. For example, the use of sulfa drugs locally to prevent infection is advised; no comment is made upon any of the newer antibiotics which have been developed during the past four years. There is, perhaps, not enough emphasis on the drainage of compound wounds in the management of compound injuries. The over-all discussion of principle, however, is excellent and bears careful study.

The various fractures occurring in the musculoskeletal system are covered adequately and completely with instructive illustrations. There can be no criticism of any portion of this book in that respect.

The section having to do with fractures of the forearm and elbow region emphasizes conservative management. The operative procedures illustrated, however, use either wire loops or the onlay plate and screw fixation principle. No mention is made of the use of intramedullary pin fixation for problems of this type. Apparently the only areas in which intramedullary nail fixation is advocated are in the tibial shaft and femoral shaft.

In the section on fractures of the hand, there is perhaps a bit too much emphasis on the use of traction and not quite enough on the maintenance of function. In inexperienced hands, a banjo-splint or a skeletal traction apparatus applied to an injured digit can lead to irreparable damage unless the principle of functional movement during the course of healing is followed through. The use of splints of this type predisposes to treating fractures of the hand on the basis of x-ray appearance instead of evaluation of the functional range of movement as an end result.